

CARLOS ALARCONColombia, 1979

It could be said that Carlos Alarcon's evolution as an artist runs contrary to that of most painters who began by realistically representing the visible world and have ended up distorting it in favor of expressionist or conceptual aims. In contrast, Alarcon began by producing expressionist paintings laden with socio-political content and has progressed to creating a type of realistic representation with no obvious or literal message.

The obstinate counter-direction of his work is also manifest in his small drawings which contrast with this era of grand artistic egos. It is also present in his current preference for classicism, as his work has changed from the avant-garde and experimental to a practice that prizes skill, knowledge, craftsmanship and aesthetics.

Moreover, his work allows us to understand that, for the artist, painting and drawing possess the ability to stir admiration by their mere presence. By being the result of a mental project brought to fruition through skill, mastery of material, and vision, the work embodies a character and spirit that inevitably moves the observer. It predisposes a viewer to find arguments that may not have crossed the artist's mind, but which effectively convey any thoughts or emotions prompted from the work itself. Keep in mind that painting possesses a special ability to both demonstrate and poeticize the problems and hopes of human beings.

It is well known that Van Gogh's painting, 'The Shoes', was subject to two diametrically opposed interpretations: that of the philosopher Martin Heidegger, who discovered in that painting a symbol of the authentic values of the rural man, closely related to nature, and that of historian Meyer Shapiro, who interpreted the shoes as belonging to an urban being, like the shoes of Van Gogh himself. Both interpretations are equally valid. Something similar happens with Alarcon's work. It can have different meanings for different people depending on their knowledge, preferences or past experience, yet all meanings are induced by the same source. Hence, representations that may arouse compassion for one person may at the same time stimulate joy for another, or images that may provoke admiration to some, may symbolize memories or experiences for others. The roads are many, as many as there are observers of the work, and all of them are justifiable.

Appreciation of his work finally leads me to think that for Alarcon, painting and drawing play an important role against the submission of individuality and the survival of private space. His work shares that which is subjective and offers an appealing escape to the standardization implied by many contemporary expressive means.

Fragment of Eduardo Serrano's text, "I don't Draw on Sundays."

EDUCATION**1998 – 2003**

Visual Arts with emphasis on Audiovisual Expression, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Bogotá, Colombia

2006

Post graduate degree in Ephemeral Architecture and Stage Events and Concepts, Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, Barcelona, Spain.

SPECIAL COURSES**2004**

Certification in Set Design, Commercial Exhibition and Ephemeral Space Architecture, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia

2002

IX Cátedra Internacional de Arte Luís Ángel Arango, Russian Icons. From Mysticism to Vanguard, taught by Jean Claude Marcadé, Bogotá, Colombia

2001

Metal Engraving, Lithograph and silkscreen, taught by Alfonso Álvarez, Taller de Artes Gráficas AA.

2000

Seminar in Staging and Script taught by Víctor Gaviria, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá, Colombia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS**2023**

Still Lives, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Tension, Adrián Ibañez Galería, Bogotá, Colombia

2021

Painted Numismatics, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

2017

Trial and Error, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

2016

Ante la Nada, Alonso Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

2015

Recoleccion de Angustias, Performance, Bogota, Colombia

2013

Ante la Nada, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Art, Bogotá, Colombia

2011

Angustias, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Art, Bogotá, Colombia

2008

DOS, Sala de exposiciones Convenio Andrés Bello, Bogotá, Colombia

2007

Paredón de Fusilamiento, Centro Cultural de la Universidad de Salamanca, Bogotá, Colombia

2005

Mutilación, Fhara Galería, Bogotá, Colombia

2004

Nn, Fhara Galería, Bogotá, Colombia

2003

Sustracción, Galería Atena, Bogotá, Colombia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS**2023**

Entre Hilos, Galería Centro Colombo Americano, Bogotá, Colombia

Dallas Art Fair, Beatriz Esguerra Art, Dallas, TX

Los Angeles Art Fair, Beatriz Esguerra Art, Los Angeles, CA

Somos Azul, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Bienal de Arte Textil, Manizales, Colombia.

Algo más que línea, Adrián Ibañez Galería, Bogotá, Colombia

2021

Art on Paper, Beatriz Esguerra Art, New York, NY

Art Market Fair, Adrian Ibañez Galería, Budapest, Hungary

Dallas Art Fair, Beatriz Esguerra Art, Dallas, TX

2020

Navegando Espacios, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogota, Colombia

2019

Luxembourg Art Week, Adrián Ibañez Galería

Art on Paper, Brussels International Contemporary Art Fair, Adrian Ibañez Galería

Drawing Room Lisbon, Adrian Ibañez Galería

ARTBO, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Dallas Art Fair, Beatriz Esguerra Art, Dallas, USA

2018

ARTBO, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

2016

Dallas Art Fair, Beatriz Esguerra Art, Dallas, USA

Art New York, Beatriz Esguerra Art, New York, USA

ARTBO, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Resounding Subtleties, Beatriz Esguerra Art, Miami, USA

2015

ARTBO, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Permanente, Espacio Permanente, Bogotá, Colombia

Nuevos Nombres, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Graphein, La Caja Galería, Bogotá, Colombia

El Hombre y su Universo, 12 Bienal de la Habana, Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes San Alejandro, La Habana, Cuba.

Dallas Art Fair, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Dallas, USA

Las Ciudades Del Caos a la Poesía, Galería Club el Nogal, Bogotá, Colombia

Art Wynwood Fair, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Miami, USA

Retratos, Galería Alonso Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Exposición Colectiva de Dibujo, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

2014

ARTBO (Feria Internacional de Arte de Bogotá), Corferias, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Muñecos de Loza, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Bogotá, Colombia

Pequeño Formato, Museo El Castillo, Medellín, Colombia

2013

Salón Bidimensional, Fundación Gillberto Alzate, Bogotá, Colombia

Pintura Abierta, Sala El Parquadero, Museo del Banco de la Republica. Bogotá, Colombia

Pequeño Formato, Museo El Castillo, Medellín, Colombia

2012

Odeón Feria de Arte Contemporáneo, Galería el Garaje, Bogotá, Colombia

Esta sala es un JOHN CAGE, Museo de Arte de la Universidad Nacional, Medellín, Colombia

14 Salón Regional de Artistas, La Cooperativa, Proyecto Recolección de Angustias Ajenas. Museo del Banco de la Republica. Bogotá, Colombia

Mug Shots, Galería el Garaje, Bogotá, Colombia

Pequeño Formato, Museo El Castillo, Medellín, Colombia

IV Salón de egresados de artes visuales, Biblioteca Julio Mario Santo Domingo, Bogotá, Colombia

MIA (Miami International Art Fair), Galería Baobab, Convention Center, Miami, USA

2011

Perseverancia, Galería El Garaje, Bogotá, Colombia

Cuatro pintores, Galería Baobab, Bogotá, Colombia

IV Salón de Arte Joven ColSanitas Embajada de España, Galería La Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia

JUANNIO, Museo Nacional de Arte Moderno Carlos Mérida de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Pequeño Formato, Museo El Castillo, Medellín, Colombia

Colectiva, Galería La Localidad, Bogotá, Colombia

2010

Todo a 999, Galería la Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia

Colectiva, Galería Arte Consultores-Beatriz Esguerra, Bogotá, Colombia

ARTBO (Feria Internacional de Arte de Bogotá), Corferias, Galería Arte Consultores-Beatriz Esguerra, Bogotá, Colombia

80 años la Javeriana en las Artes, BID, Washington D.C, USA

III Salón de Arte Joven ColSanitas (finalista), Galería la Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia

Ideogramas, The Warehouse-Art Gallery, Bogotá, Colombia

Pequeño formato, Museo el Castillo, Medellín, Colombia

III Salón de egresados de artes visuales, Centro Cultural García Márquez, Bogotá, Colombia

"Printemps Latin Contemporary Art", Roquebrune Village, Francia.

2009

La Memoria Decapitada, Claustro de San Agustín, Bogotá, Colombia

ARTBO (Feria Internacional de Arte de Bogotá), Corferias, Galería Alonso Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

V Salón de Arte Joven Club el Nogal, Galería Club El Nogal, Bogotá, Colombia

II Salón de Arte Joven ColSanitas (finalista), Galería la Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia

2008

ARTBO (Feria Internacional de Arte de Bogotá), Corferias, Galería Alonso Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Cuestión de Corazón, Galería el Museo, Bogotá, Colombia

II Salón de egresados de artes visuales, Centro Cultural García Marquez, Bogotá, Colombia

Arte Américas Fair, Galería Alonso Arte, Convention Center, Miami, USA

IV Salón Premio Fernando Botero, Bogotá, Colombia

2007

III Salón de Arte Joven Club el Nogal, Bogotá, Colombia

III Salón Premio Fernando Botero, Bogotá, Colombia

2006

Finalista II Salón de Pintura Joven, Club el Nogal, Bogotá, Colombia

Exposición Colectiva, Col.Lective, Julia Karp Gallery, Barcelona, España.

VII Concurso y exposición de pintura Al passeig de Sant Joan, Barcelona, España.

A Mantra For a Peacer, Wang Center, Stony Brook, Nueva York, USA.

2005

Arte Joven, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá (MAMBO), Bogotá, Colombia

Primer Salón de Pintura, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, España.

2004

Bienal Agustina, Galería Carrión Vivar, Bogotá, Colombia

Vacas Sagradas (Disecciones), Galería Casa Cuadrada, Bogotá, Colombia

Tesis, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MAC), Bogotá, Colombia

2003

7 Dibujos Instalados, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá (MAMBO), Bogotá, Colombia

Pentimentos, Sala alterna Galería Santa Fe, con el colectivo Ruinas Faber, Bogotá, Colombia

Primer Salón de Arte Bidimensional, Fundación Gilberto Alzate Avendaño, Bogotá, Colombia

8ª Bienal de la Habana, Acción 30 días; Departamento de Intervenciones Públicas con el grupo Bogotá Ltda., Habana, Cuba

2001

Arborizarte en representación de la Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia

I Salón Javeriano de Artes Visuales, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MAC), Bogotá, Colombia

Premio Philips de Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

Primera Exposición Arte en Conserva, Bogotá, Museo Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Expositor invitado Segundo Salón Estudiantes de Artes Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

1999 – 2000

Participante Muestra de Dibujo Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia

PRIZES AND AWARDS

2011

First Prize, Tragaluz Prize for Illustration. Colombia

2003

First Prize, Fine and Visual Arts Contest, Instituto Distrital Cultura y Turismo (IDCT), Galería Santa Fe, Bogota, Colombia Work developed with the Ruinas Faber Group, Colombia

PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2001

Invited to participate in the Video Exhibit at the Film Festival in Havana, Cuba. Participant in the Film Festival Toma Cinco, Bogotá, Colombia

2000

Exhibitor by Colombia in the XXVII International Board on Books for Young People Ibbv Congress, Cartagena, Colombia

PUBLICATIONS

2018

I don't Draw on Sundays. Hard cover book, 130 pages, texts by Curator Eduardo Serrano. Published by Beatriz Esguerra Art.

2016

Sud America Arte Contemporaneo, texts by Ángela Bash and Kristell Pfeifer, Published By Arte Al Limite. Chile

2011 *Angustias*, Texts by Rodolfo Alarcón, Published by Carlos Alarcón.